

DRAWING AMENDMENT

Attached is a copy of Fig. 8 of the drawings wherein the connections between the analog circuit 19 and the thin metal sheet 3, and between the apparatus body 16 and the photoelectric conversion device 1 are shown in red as having been deleted, and as now showing connections between elements 19 and 1, and between elements 16 and 3.

A "Replacement Sheet" including these changes is submitted herewith.

REMARKS

By means of the foregoing Amendment, independent Claims 55 , 56 and 70 have been amended in a manner which Applicants believe to be patentably distinct over the cited Suzuki reference.

In particular, Applicants' claims now relate to an imaging apparatus comprising various elements including a conductive member disposed within a housing and being fixed with an adhesive wavelength converting member. The claimed invention is further characterized by a resin that seals at least a portion of the principal surface of each of the substrates, at least a part of an end face of the conductive member, and at least a part of each lead electrode portion, wherein the plurality of substrates and the conductive member are in close proximity with other.

The cited Suzuki reference discloses a container 20 for a sensor portion constituted of an X-ray fluorescent screen 26, an optical fiber 25, a CCD sensor 24, a substrate 23, a conductive member 22, a ground wire 32 and an X-ray shielding member 21. The space between the sensor portion and the container is closely packed with a filler such as an insulating rubber. (Paragraphs [0040] and [0046]. However, the cited Suzuki reference does not disclose either the unique feature of the present invention of a grounded conductive member being fixed to a wavelength converting member with an adhesive, nor a key feature of the present invention recited in Claims 55, 56, and 70, of a resin sealing at least a portion of a surface of a panel and at least a part of an end face of the conductive member and at least a part of each lead electrode portion, such that the surface of the panel

and the conductive member are in close proximity with each other. Applicants respectfully submit that for these reasons the amended claims are patentable over the Suzuki reference.

Moreover, according to the present invention having the above-characterized features, there can be obtained not only the effective prevention of water intrusion into member, but also the additional notable advantages of an effective prevention of water intrusion between the substrate or panel surface and the conductive member, and the protection of semiconductors and metal wiring of the photoelectric conversion elements of the imaging apparatus. Looking again to the X-ray image sensor disclosed in the Suzuki reference, when the X-ray shielding member 21 is deformed by application of an external force from outside of the container 20, the electrical capacitance generated between the X-ray shielding member 21 and a sensor electrode facing the X-ray shielding member 21 may vary, thereby generating noise. In the array disclosed in the cited Crowell reference, the inside of the top cover is coated with an aluminum layer (col. 6, ll.38-41), so that the deformation of the top cover may generate noise. On the contrary, in the present invention, the conductive member is fixed to the wavelength converting member and the positional relationship between the conductive member and an electrode of the photoelectric conversion device will not change, so that there is no generation of noise.

For these reasons Applicants' solicit the issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance.

Applicants' undersigned attorney may be reached in our New York office by telephone at (212) 218-2100. All correspondence should continue to be directed to our address given below.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Krause", is written over a horizontal line.

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FIG. 8

